

Application Serial No. 09/649,973

Art Unit 2155

2

## REMARKS

The present application was filed on August 29, 2000, with claims 1-19. On December 2, 2004, Applicants responded to an Office Action mailed on September 17, 2004. On April 15, 2005, Applicants filed a Supplemental Amendment, adding claims 20-22. In a final rejection dated June 28, 2005, the Examiner withdrew claims 20-22 as being restricted.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this restriction. MPEP §803 states the following: "If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions."

Both independent claims 1 and 20 are directed to a method of doing business over a network, receiving requests for transmitting digital information, determining times required to transmit the digital information, and determining based on certain criteria whether the digital information can be accepted for transmission or transmitted based on certain criteria. Moreover, although independent claim 20 of Group II is related to the subject matter of cost (e.g., for transmission), dependent claims 2, 4, and 5 of Group I also are related to price for transmission.

Consequently, it is believed that a search for Group I, claims 1-19, will contain results applicable as well to Group II, claims 20-22, and that the groups, subgroups and references searched for Group I will be equally applicable to Group II. Therefore, there is no serious burden on the Examiner and both Groups should be searched at the same time.

Application Serial No. 09/649,973

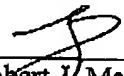
Art Unit 2155

3

Applicants respectfully request the restriction of claims 20-22 be withdrawn and all claims examined on the merits.

It is noted that Applicants intend to file a Notice of Appeal, pending outcome of the present Petition, with regard to the rejections of claims 1-19.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Robert J. Mauri (Reg. No. 41,180)  
Harrington & Smith, LLP  
4 Research Drive  
Shelton, CT 06484-6212  
(203) 925-9400

7/19/05  
Date

**CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile with the United States Postal Service addressed to: Commission For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313, Mail Stop AF.

  
Person Making Deposit

7/19/05  
Date